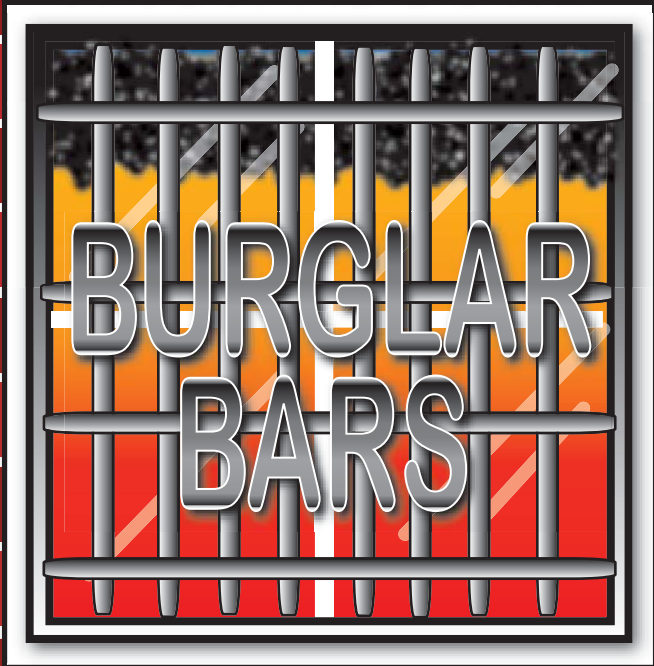


# WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT...



## Don't Become A Prisoner In Your Own Home!

Tragedies occur when children and adults become trapped inside their homes, unable to escape a fire because of burglar bars! The installation and use of burglar bars are regulated by the City of Houston Uniform Building Code. Consult the code!

Bars, grilles or grates must meet the following requirements:

- Must be able to be opened from the inside without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort (a child should be able to open the bars and easily get out).
- The recommended released mechanism for hinged burglar bars would be a single cylinder deadbolt lock with a thumb and forefinger turn lever on the inside cylinder or other quick release device
- If your burglar bars require a key to open, keep the key near the bars, at all times, for easy access in case of fire. Review with your family where the key is kept and how to use it to open the burglar bars.
- For security purposes, the deadbolt on a hinged burglar bar could be protected from outside intrusion by the use of expanded metal or a plate to prevent intruders from reaching the release lever.
- **DO NOT** install burglar bars, grilles, grates or any device on windows or doors used for escape routes that cannot easily be opened from the inside. **In a fire, your life will depend on it!**
- If burglar bars are installed, your home should have smoke detectors installed protecting each sleeping area or hallway. One smoke detector is required for each level of the house and install detectors on the ceiling near the stairway when bedrooms are located upstairs. The signal from a smoke alarm must be able to be heard from every bedroom.

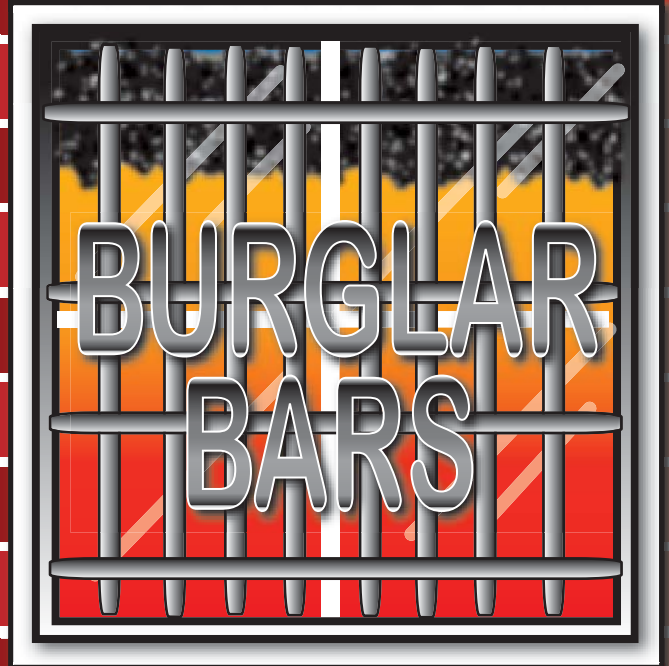
• For more information, contact the Houston Fire Department's Community Outreach Division at **713-495-7900**

or visit [www.houstonfire.org](http://www.houstonfire.org)



A Message From The Houston Fire Department

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